

Aerial Photography: World Class Disaster Fighter

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Abstract The value of utilizing aerial photographic collection systems along with varied photo interpretation and photogrammetric techniques in connection with disaster management is better understood with each passing year. Not only is it possible to compare new sensor coverage with historical graphic records, but analytical methods allow a sophistication of data manipulation considered impossible in the recent past. Damage assessment, together with a remarkable capability for predictive reporting, has brought a new dimension to emergency management.

Man has constantly sought new windows on his world and has, with each increase in altitude attained by aircraft, and now spacecraft, gained an ever widening view of the earth. This insatiable quest for knowledge of every aspect of his environment has led man to photograph the planet from a wide range of platforms—from balloons and helicopters hovering a few feet above the earth to meteorological satellites photographing the hemispheres and oceans from an incredible 23,400 miles in space. Man has also

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